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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/663,325	09/15/2000	Scott Williams	2057-PA	3717

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04/17/2003

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EXAMINER

HIRL, JOSEPH P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/663,325

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph P. Hirl

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.
2. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention. The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 28, 2001 is missing from the application file. Please resubmit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mukherjee (U. S. Patent 6,314,415, referred to as **Mukherjee**).

Claim 1

Mukherjee anticipates a processor (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 34-35), a memory and a display both operatively coupled to said processor (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 34-37); a plurality of rule steps stored within said memory (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 34-37); means for graphically depicting said plurality of rule steps stored within said memory as an arrangement on said display (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 34-52; col 2, lines 19-38); means for selecting at least one of said graphically depicted rule steps from said arrangement for visually creating a custom rule on said display (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38; Examiner's Note (EN): the form of Mukherjee is a representation of the rules and the specific characteristics of the form represent rule steps).

Claim 2

Mukherjee anticipates memory is a database wherein said rule steps are individually stored as executable code (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38; Examiner's Note (EN): Executable code means that the program...code.. is ready to run. This limitation is generic to computer operations and does not convey novelty or non-obviousness).

Claim 3

Mukherjee anticipates created custom rule is employed for decision making in an expert system by accessing said executable code for each said rule step that is both graphically depicted and selected for visually creating said custom rule on said display (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38; EN: Fig. 3A satisfies this limitation since it is graphic, involves a display and facilitates creation of a rule(s) as data is appropriately entered;

the accessing of executable is generic to computer operations and does not convey novelty or non obviousness).

Claim 4

Mukherjee anticipates a database comprised of a multiplicity of rule steps, each said rule step having specific executable code associated therewith (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-62); a computer operatively coupled to said database and including a display for graphically depicting said rule steps in an array and for providing a graphical window (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 34-52); means for interacting with said array to select and place said graphically depicted rule steps from said array to said graphical window for graphical display (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 34-52); means for interconnecting said graphically displayed rule steps within said graphical window for creating a custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 63-67; EN: linking of the prompts is a manifestation of rule interconnection).

Claim 5

Mukherjee anticipates including a reference stored within said database for referencing said specific executable code associated with each rule step that is graphically displayed within said graphical window (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38; EN: executable code is the manifestation of the graphical display in the world of software and does not convey novelty or non obviousness).

Claim 6

Mukherjee anticipates processing means for processing said created custom rule by processing said referenced executable code (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38; EN: above comments apply).

Claim 7

Mukherjee anticipates including means for providing a decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38).

Claim 8

Mukherjee anticipates means for routing said decision based upon said processing of said created custom rule to appropriate personal (**Mukherjee**, col 4, lines 30-45).

Claim 9

Mukherjee anticipates an arrangement of graphically depicted rule steps, each said graphically depicted rule step having assembled code associated therewith and stored within a database (**Mukherjee**, col 19, lines 34-52); means for individually selecting said graphically depicted rules steps from said arrangement and disposing said selected rules in a graphical window such that said selected rules are arranged in a substantially columnar format (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38; Fig. 3A); means for graphically interconnecting said selected rule steps disposed in said graphical window (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 39-62; col 19, lines 62-67), and means for storing said graphically interconnected selected rule steps disposed in said graphical window as a

custom rule to be employed for decision making in an expert system (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 39-62; col 19, lines 62-67).

Claim 10

Mukherjee anticipates a database (**Mukherjee**, col 2, line 41); a plurality of rule steps stored within said database (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 39-51); a plurality of tables stored within said database, each of said plurality of tables having at least one record including at least one field (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47); a plurality of step references stored within at least one of said plurality of tables, each of said plurality of step references associated with at least one of said rule steps stored within said database (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 14-47); a plurality of rule references stored within at least one of said plurality of tables, each of said plurality of rule references associated with at least one of said rule step references stored within said database (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47), and wherein all of the step references that are associated with the same rule reference define each individual rule step that is included in an individual, user created custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 14-47).

Claim 11

Mukherjee anticipates a database (**Mukherjee**, col 2, line 41); a plurality of rule steps stored within said database as executable code (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 39-51); a plurality of tables stored within said database, each of said plurality of tables having at least one record containing fields (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47); a plurality of said fields including step references to individual rule steps stored within said database stored within said database for defining a custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38).

Claim 12

Mukherjee anticipates further including an extraction module for extracting information engendered from sensors and a processor operatively coupled to said extraction module and said database for processing said extracted information according to said defined custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 4, lines 8-29; col 2, lines 39-61).

Claim 13

Mukherjee anticipates individual rule steps stored within a database coupled to a computer (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-62); means for graphically depicting said rules steps on a display of said computer (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38); means for selecting and interconnecting a plurality of said graphically depicted rule steps for visually forming a custom rule in a graphical window of said display (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38).

Claim 14

Mukherjee anticipates an arrangement of graphically depicted rule steps displayed on said- display and having inputs, outputs, or both inputs and outputs (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-38); means for connecting outputs of said graphically depicted rule steps to inputs of said graphically depicted rule steps for visually creating a custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-62).

Claim 15

Mukherjee anticipates storing individual rule steps comprised of executable code within a database coupled to a computer (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-62; col 19, lines 34-52); depicting said rules steps on a display of said computer as a graphical arrangement of icons (**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-62; col 19, lines 34-52; Fig. 3A);

creating a custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of icons
(**Mukherjee**, col 2, lines 19-62; col 5, lines 41-56).

Claim 16

Mukherjee anticipates wherein the step of creating said custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of icons further includes the steps of selecting and placing a plurality of said icons from said arrangement to a graphical window on said display (**Mukherjee**, col 5, lines 46-67).

Claim 17

Mukherjee anticipates creating said custom rule by interfacing with said graphical arrangement of icons further includes the step of interconnecting said icons placed within said graphical window (**Mukherjee**, col 5, lines 29-67).

Claim 18

Mukherjee anticipates selecting an asset for a custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-24); defining input value steps to be used in the custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-57); each said input value step including at least one output (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-57); depicting said input value steps in a graphical window of a graphical user interface of a computer (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-57); depicting a matrix of graphically depicted rule steps on said graphical user interface, each said graphically depicted rule step having assembled rule step code associated therewith and stored within a database coupled to said computer (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-57; col 2, lines 19-62; col 19, lines 34-52); selecting a result step from said matrix of graphically depicted rule steps and placing said result step into said graphical window,

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said result step including at least one input (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-57); defining a result that will be created when an input to said selected result step is true (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47); selecting at least one operation step from said matrix of graphically depicted rule steps and placing said at least one operation step into said graphical window at a location interposed between said input value steps and said result step, said at least one operation step having at least one input and at least one output (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47; col 2, lines 39-61); connecting said at least one output of each of said input value steps to said at least one input of said operation step (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47), and connecting said at least one output of said operation step to said at least one input of said result step for creating a custom rule (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47).

Claim 19

Mukherjee anticipates a database (**Mukherjee**, col 2, line 41); a multiplicity of text identifier numbers stored within said database (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47); means for storing a table comprised of text associated with said multiplicity of text identifier numbers (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47); means for returning text from said table to said system for each of said multiplicity of text identifier numbers stored within said database upon demand such that said database can be written and stored as said multiplicity of text identifier numbers (**Mukherjee**, col 18, lines 20-47; EN: it is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that computers are binary systems and operate on binary numbers; consequently text identifier numbers are encoded in binary numbers).

Claim 20

Mukherjee anticipates said table can be comprised of text in any language (Mukherjee, col 1, lines 9-16; col 19, 8-24; EN: Mukherjee is not limited to any specific discipline however it may be defined...Mukherjee is not language specific).

Conclusion

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected.

Correspondence Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Examiner, Joseph P. Hirl, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1668. The Examiner can be reached on Monday – Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached at (703) 305-8498.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231;

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or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry);

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications with notation of
"Proposed" or "Draft").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Receptionist,
Crystal Park II,
2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, Virginia.

Joseph P. Hirl



April 7, 2003

Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
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